

Visits Unconquered Maya Tribe

One member of the Tulane University Expedition, which left last January, 1928, to explore unknown parts of the Maya area in southern Mexico and Guatemala, has returned to civilization, while the others are still somewhere in the brush.

Carlos Basauri, ethnologist of the expedition and representative of the Mexican Department of Education, has just returned to Mexico City via Yucatan, but without Frans Blom, leader of the expedition, and the other members, with whom he parted company in the Peten region of Guatemala over a month ago. Mr. Blom, looking for archaeological ruins, decided to make his way straight north through the almost unpopulated areas, while Señor Basauri, interested in people, was to make his way to the inhabited parts. The two had designated three meeting places in Quintana Roo and Yucatan, but each time

Volcano Explodes

The world's weather during the coming months may show effects of the violent explosion of Rokatinda volcano on the island of Paloweh in the Dutch East Indies. Prof. W. J. Humphries of the U. S. Weather Bureau stated that if the explosion was violent enough to cast a large volume of fine volcanic dust into the upper air, this cloud may drift clear around the earth, cutting down the sun's radiation and notably affecting the temperature. "It is too early now to tell, but in a month we ought to know," he said. "By that time if the volcano did create a dust cloud it will have had time to get distributed, and we shall begin to see its first effects in a lot of extra brilliant sunsets."

There are two types of volcano, Prof. Humphries explained. One type, of which Kilauea is an example, never explodes, but at times wells forth great quiet rivers of lava. The other type, like Katmai in Alaska, goes off with a bang and hurls clouds of fine dust miles upward into the air. The East Indian volcanoes are of this type, and the eruption of Rokatinda seems to have been of this explosive nature. Two of the worst volcanic disasters of history have occurred in this same general region: the explosion of Krakatoa in 1883, which killed 36,000 persons, and the explosion of Tambora in 1815, which wiped out over 56,000.

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Mr. Blom failed to be on the spot.

Senor Basauri made ethnological studies upon various of the Maya races which the party encountered, and succeeded in getting to Santa Cruz, Quintana Roo, the capital of the famous unconquered Maya tribes who have successfully defied the white man from the time of the Conquest four centuries ago to the present day. They are the living remainder of the Maya Empire and made their last effort to drive the whites out of Yucatan only about 80 years ago, during the cruel "War of the Castes," in which they nearly succeeded. But eventually defeated, they withdrew to their jungles where they remain today resisting the white man and his civilization to the last.

The governments of Mexico, since 1910, have made friendly overtures to these Indians with the hope of "incorporating" them in the republic, for

there are many people who see in races with such determination one of the hopes of future Mexico. The Indians are now only nominally under the Mexican government, having their own chief, Mai, called "General" Mai, by the courteous Federal Government, to make it look better. All of Señor Basauri's experiences in the land of the unconquered Indians were not pleasant, but he succeeded in getting certain anthropological measurements, which is the first time these have been made.

Señor Basauri also brought with him the scraps of prehistoric Maya fabric which the expedition found early in the season in a cave in southern Chiapas, within the area of the old Maya Empire. Only one other prehistoric example of Maya textile exists, as far as is now known, and that is in the Peabody Museum of Harvard University.

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In This Issue—

Unconquered Maya, p. 108—*Rokatinda*, p. 108—*Humanity versus Hexapods*, p. 109—*Farther-Seeing Eyes*, p. 111—*New Aurora Mystery*, p. 113—*Radiovision in the Home*, p. 113—*Mural Literature*, p. 114—*Alkalinity and Cancer*, p. 115—*Cathode Ray Rubber*, p. 115—*Eye Differences*, p. 117—*Lost in Siberia*, p. 117—*Mathematical-Minded*, p. 117—*Halcyon*, p. 117—*Control of Scarlet Fever*, p. 121.



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